Critique of T-Pack Resource- Years 9 and 10- Melda Koparan

The T- Pack package for year 9 and 10 history seems very appropriate, in particular for the year 10 history course designed on the unit of Post- Vietnam War Migration. Such a notion is evident as the package continuously refers to, and makes links to the Australian National Curriculum history requirements for year 10. Furthermore, because the package makes use of a wiki specifically, it is also quite pertinent to the wider lives of year 10 students who on a daily basis may come into contact with technology, and wikis for a variety of reasons, including leisure and entertainment. Hence, by employing technology in such a manner that relates to the wider lives of students learning is made more relevant and engaging for digital- age students.

The resources are to an extent clear to understand and readily accessible. Namely, the lesson plans are presented in a very succinct and concise way which definitely makes it easier for the teacher to understand the main ICT, and major historical issues the individual lessons focus upon. However, in a way this is also a disadvantage as it makes it very difficult for a teacher to more precisely and deeply comprehend how to actually structure such lessons. Although, one comprehensive lesson plan is provided, this may be seen as an example teachers can use to help create other lessons, or may be regarded as not relevant to generating them. The list of websites that is provided is also quite accessible and simple to understand.

The ICT resources will be very useful in my future practice and learning as they firstly illustrate how to use wikis, through online tutorials. This is important because a teacher must have the necessary technology skills so that she/he can effectively demonstrate and model them to students, and also help them to develop such skills in turn. Furthermore, the lesson plans are also important for future practice as they exemplify strategies that can be used to develop students’ critical evaluation skills, and thereby help them become high-order thinkers. Simultaneously, due to the highly collaborative nature of wikis students will also benefit from collaborative teaching and learning strategies which help in bettering student knowledge and understanding through a type of peer tutoring.

Lastly, the package also demonstrates how to teach effectively with ICTs through the provision of lesson plans and online tutorials. The package as stated also helps to facilitate new learning experiences through technology as it is utilised in such a way that is relevant to the broader lives of students and the new Australian history curriculum requirements. The potential of technology to aid deeper learning is also illustrated as mentioned by the fact that wikis help to endorse collaborative learning, literacy skills and higher-order thinking skills. In turn such a reality also helps to organise one’s class around a more collaborative and collegial foundation. A range of teaching strategies are also portrayed as the package elaborates on differentiated curriculum ideas, assessment ideas, and back up plans.